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COUNTRY	Germany (Soviet Zone)	25X1	REPORT	
TOPIC	Koethen Airfield			
EVALUATION		25X1	PLACE OBTAINED	
DATE OF CONTENT				
DATE OBTAINED			DATE PREPARED	30 January 1951
REFERENCES				
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)		
REMARKS				

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- 25X1 1. On 3 January 1951, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. with 10/10 overcast and poor visibility, there was flying by about five single-engine, low-wing monoplanes at the Koethen (M 43/D 95) airfield. The planes had in-line engines, three-bladed propellers, trapezoidal wings, and mounted cockpits. An antenna mast was on top of the front section of the cockpit and there was a weapon in the rear section of the cockpit. The lower section of the planes was painted silver-gray and the upper section was dark-green. The only marking identified on the planes was the Soviet star with a white edge painted on the rudder assembly and on the fuselage. * Local flights lasting from 15 to 20 minutes, and formation flights of two planes were made. One biplane took off about 11:30 a.m. and headed east-northeast. It returned from the same direction and landed at the field at 12:30 p.m. A radio truck with a rod antenna about 8 meters high, a truck, and about 40 to 50 men were at the take-off point. The antenna was not braced but tilted slightly.
2. A large storage area, probably a fuel dump, was on the eastern edge of the field, between the kilometer stones 2.8 and 3.0 on the Koethen-Baasdorf (M 52/D 95) road. A warning sign with the Russian inscription "No smoking" was on a temporary building in the dump. The dump was fenced in. Many semi-underground containers, each about 3 meters long and 1.2 meters in diameter, were located around the temporary building. A sentry was posted at one side of the building. **
3. A firing range, about 25 meters wide and surrounded by a wall, 2 meters high, was between kilometer stones 3.0 and 3.2 on the Koethen-Baasdorf road. A sentry wearing red-bordered, black service color was at the targets. Firing was practiced on the range. About 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered, black epaulets were drilling in the northeastern corner of the field. ***
4. Twenty-four soldiers with blue service color were unloading coal from seven railroad cars in the northeastern corner of the field. Two buildings near the unloading site apparently were the heating plants of the airfield. The remaining section of the spur track leading toward the south was covered with snow.

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5. A power shovel was next to an empty construction shed on the eastern edge of the field. No construction was being done.
6. The runway and taxiway could not be seen because the entire field was covered with snow. Local residents said that a runway was built which extended west beyond the Koethen-Edderitz (M 52/D 95) road. The road was blocked by sentries. Landing planes flew over a zig-zag truck on the eastern edge of the field. No motor vehicle numbers were seen. The total occupation of the field could not be determined because the hangars were closed. No boundary or obstacle lights were seen.

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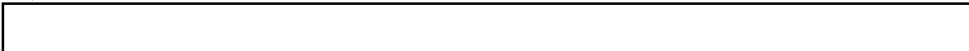
Comment. The description indicates that the planes are Il-10s.

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This confirms the observation according to which one ground attack regiment is stationed in Koethen. One air reconnaissance regiment is also believed to be stationed there. The number of aircraft stationed in Koethen is not known because the occupation of the hangars cannot be determined

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Comment. It is not known what army unit is stationed at the field with the air force units.

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